



HARTFORD POLICE UNION

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PRESIDENT RICHARD HOLTON

Office of The President

Statement of

***The Hartford Police Union
To the
Insurance and Real Estate Committee***

In support of Raised SB Bill No.367

My name is Richard Holton, President of the Hartford Police Union, representing men and women who unselfishly serve the resident of Hartford putting their own safety and lives on the line to keep the Capitol City safe and enjoyable. The Hartford Police Union supports SB 367.

While keeping the city safe, my members, your front line protection, are assaulted, injured and see some of the most horrific things the rest of society wishes to never see. Under the current law if an individual is injured in the course of their duties they are covered by the Workers Compensation Act, if they used deadly force against another individual they are covered by the current law but one thing the law does not cover is any sever mental and emotional impairment, in a non-deadly force encounter, such as a traumatic event.

The current law covers visible injuries and scaring that you can see due to a work related incident but they forget about the invisible /silent scars that can't be seen that effects first responders. When a Police Officer personally and physically experiences the carnage at a murder scene a fatal accident scene or seeing another colleague injured or killed in the line of duty those images never leave their memory.

I can personally attest to a Motor vehicle accident that I responded to, the victim was struck by a vehicle that was going at a high rate of speed knocking her out of her clothes and killing her and destroying a family. I can still to this day close my eyes and see and hear the whole scene, from a citizen telling me and showing me the victims leg that was severed from her body lying on the sidewalk and the rest of her naked body approximately 40 feet away. As I went to render aid to the victim I can still hear her gurgling for air and bright red blood coming from her mouth and her other leg hanging on by a few flaps of skin.

The reason I tell you this story is because these are incidents that never leave your memory and have a profound effect on an individual. Whether it is an incident like Sandy Hook, Columbine, Aurora or the scene I described above they all have an effect on the human brain and leaves an imprint that will never go away. Mental and emotional distress effects every first responder, I urge you to pass SB 367. Thank You.

*Sgt. Richard Holton
Hartford Police Union President*

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"Leadership, Strength and Integrity"